educational development, determining the changes required to improve the system and monitoring implementation.

Rates for pay channels

2737. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a right to fix rates chargeable by the Cable Operators for pay channels;

(b) if so, whether Government have fixed the rates; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 as amended till date does not provide for fixation of rates for pay channels. However, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued Tariff Orders from time to time under TRAI Act, which regulates the charges payable by Cable subscribers to Cable Operators and by Cable Operators to Multi System Operators/Broadcasters.

Cable Operators in TV Transmissions

2738. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether TV transmissions still continues to be through the cable;

(b) the extent to which DTH has been able to replace cable television;

(c) whether the Internet connections are also finding place through the cable; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to free the public from the monopolistic functioning of the local cable operators in the field of TV transmission/internet connections?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The TV transmission is available in

various forms such as terrestrial, cable and Direct to Home (DTH) broadcast.

(b) No such assessment is available in the Ministry. However, DTH service is expected to provide to the viewer a third alternative to cable and terrestrial networks for receiving TV signals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 does not prohibit the operation of more than one Cable Operator in a given area.

Co-production Treaty by film industries

2739. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Italy and Indian film industries have signed a co-production treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this treaty would also cover television content generation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Government of India and the Government of the Italian Republic have entered into an Audiovisual Co-production Agreement on 13.5.2005.

The Agreement has been entered into to provide a framework for the development of the audiovisual relations of both countries, particularly for film, television and video co-productions. The Agreement would also contribute to the further expansion of the film, television and video production and distribution industries of both countries.

(c) and (d) Under the Agreement a "Co-production" is a film including feature films, documentaries, science films, animation films